

CURSE OF THE

S P A W N



27

\$1.95 US

\$2.95 CAN

R e T U R N O F S U T U R E P a R T I

Todd McFarlane & Image Comics Presents

Ghosts

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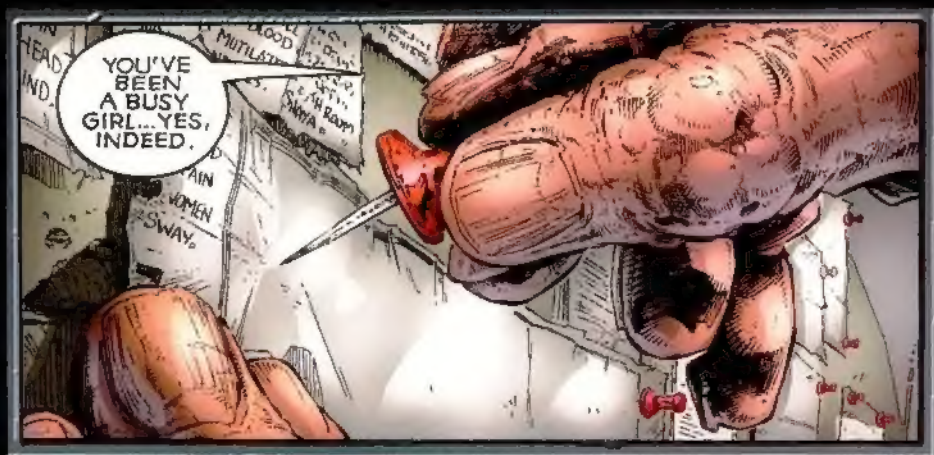
CURSE OF THE SPAWN 26 SUMMARY

The FBI's top profiler and negotiator, Dr. Marc Simmons, brother of Al Simmons, is called in on the case of the serial Crocodile Killer. At the same time, Sam and Twitch have been called to a sanitarium where they are asked to find and protect an escaped patient named Roger Bonner who may be mistaken for the Crocodile Killer. As the number of victims mount, the FBI do indeed find Roger Bonner just minutes after Sam and Twitch arrive to take him into protective custody.

CURSE OF THE
SPAWN™



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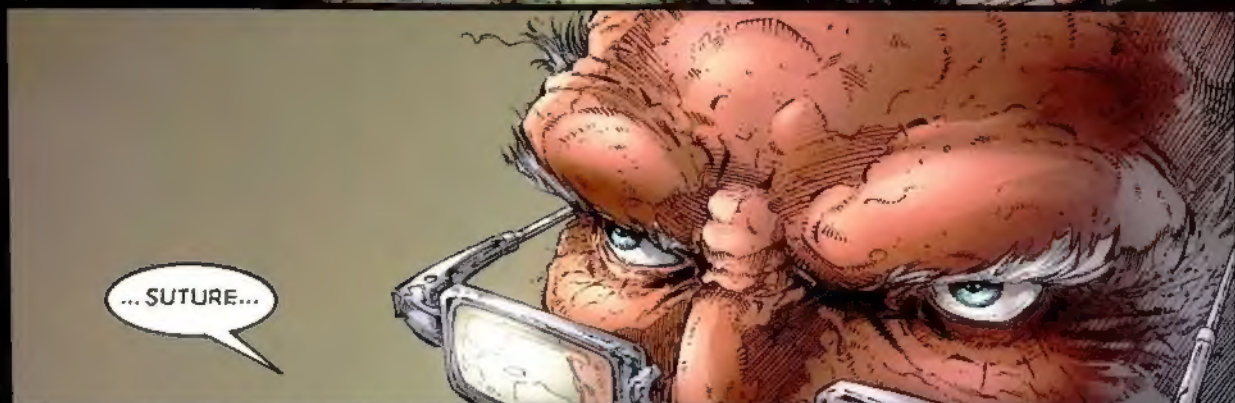


YOU'VE
BEEN
A BUSY
GIRL... YES,
INDEED.

DAMON EDWARD FOSTER
DOESN'T SLEEP. HE EATS
ONLY TO SUSTAIN
CONSCIOUSNESS. HIS MIND
IS AN ANALYTICAL WHIRL-
POOL OF IDEAS, MOTIVA-
TIONS, SUSPICIONS.

CHAOS TAKES SHAPE.
GAINS ORDER.

THE PURSUIT OF
HUMAN CHAOS-MADE
FLESH HAS BECOME
AN ALL-ENCOMPAS-
SING, ALL-CONSUMING
OBSESSION.



... SUTURE...

FOR MARC SIMMONS, THE NIGHTMARE COMES KNOCKING TOO OFTEN. A BLEAK REPLAY OF GOODBYES. THEY CRUMBLE LIKE DEAD LEAVES CAUGHT IN A SUDDEN WINDSTORM.

YOU STAY SAFE NOW.

THANKS FOR THE COOL PLANE, DAD.

SEE YOU TO-NIGHT.

... NO ...

HE THRASHES IN HIS SLEEP. SWEATS IN A MENTAL STRUGGLE TO HANG ONTO THEM. TO SOMEHOW CHANGE THE VERY FABRIC OF REALITY AND UNDO THE HORROR. THE PAIN.

THE LOSS.

I WOULDN'T LOOK IN THERE, SIR.

... oh GOD ...



GODDAMMIT!

"SORRY..."
"NO LEADS..."
THAT'S NOT
GOOD
ENOUGH!

I WANT
WHO-
EVER
KILLED
THEM!!



TREY...
YVONNE...

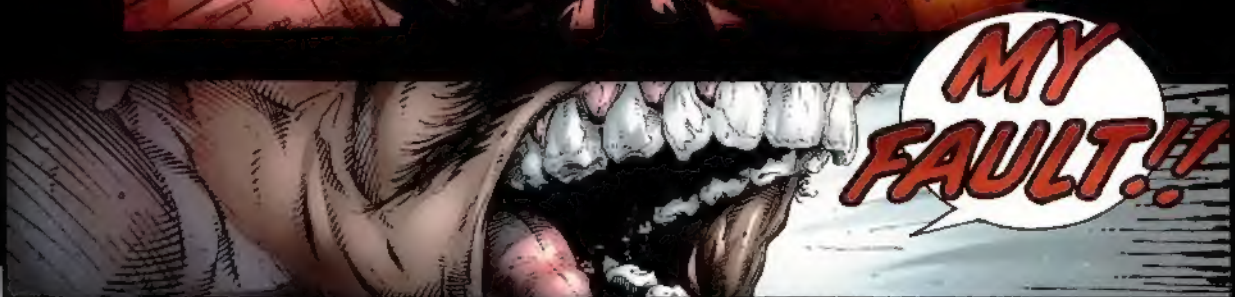
IT'S MY
FAULT...

THEY
DIED
BECAUSE
OF ME...

I'M THE
FED... I'M
THE ONE
SOMEONE
WANTED
TO HURT.

IT'S MY
FAULT...

MY
FAULT!



**MY
FAULT!!**



I'LL
FIND WHO
DID IT. I
SWEAR
ON MY
SOUL.



THE VILLAGE.

OK, MARC.
MY GOD IT'S
GOOD TO
SEE YOU.

YOU TOO,
WANDA.

IT'S BEEN
TOO LONG,
I'M SO GLAD
YOU CALLED. IT
WAS SUCH A
SURPRISE.

I FEEL
TERRIBLE ABOUT
HOW THE FAMILY'S
DRIFTED APART SINCE
AL DIED. I'VE BEEN A
LONG TIME HEALING.
TERRY'S MADE ALL THE
DIFFERENCE, AND
CYAN, BUT SEEING
YOU WAS TOO
PAINFUL
FOR ME.

YOU AND
AL WERE
SO MUCH
ALIKE.

I UNDER-
STAND. SEEING
YOU WAS HARD
FOR ME, TOO. I
STILL REMEMBER
WHEN HE INTRO-
DUCED ME TO YOU.
DAY I GRADUAT-
ED FROM THE
ACADEMY.



I SHOULD'VE
CALLED AFTER THE
FUNERAL LAST YEAR. I
DIDN'T KNOW YVONNE AND TREY
AS WELL AS I'D LIKED... BUT I
SHOULD'VE BEEN THERE TO SUP-
PORT YOU THE SAME WAY YOU
SUPPORTED ME AFTER
AL DIED.

IT'S
OKAY,
WANDA...
I WASN'T MUCH
FOR PEOPLE FOR QUITE A
WHILE AFTERWARDS.
I JUST WANTED TO
WORK.





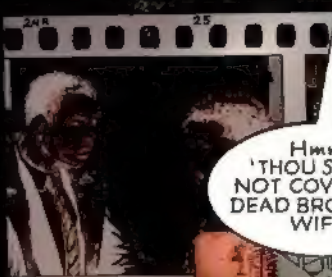
ARE YOU GOING TO STAY IN NEW YORK FOR A WHILE?

I'LL SEE HOW THIS CASE GOES FIRST.



I HOPE YOU'LL STAY. I WANT CYAN TO KNOW HER UNCLE MARC.

MAYBE, IT'S BEEN TOUGH LIVING IN DC WITHOUT THEM. A CHANGE MIGHT BE GOOD.



Hmm, 'THOU SHALT NOT COVET THY DEAD BROTHER'S WIFE'.



READS THE MAN HE'S BEEN WATCHING FOR MORE THAN A WEEK NOW.



DAMON TAKES PHOTO AFTER PHOTO.



YEAH, THIS
IS SIMMONS. I'M
GONNA NEED
SEVERAL FILES
TRANSFERRED FROM
THE D.C. OFFICE TO
NEW YORK. I MAY
BE HERE A WHILE
LONGER.

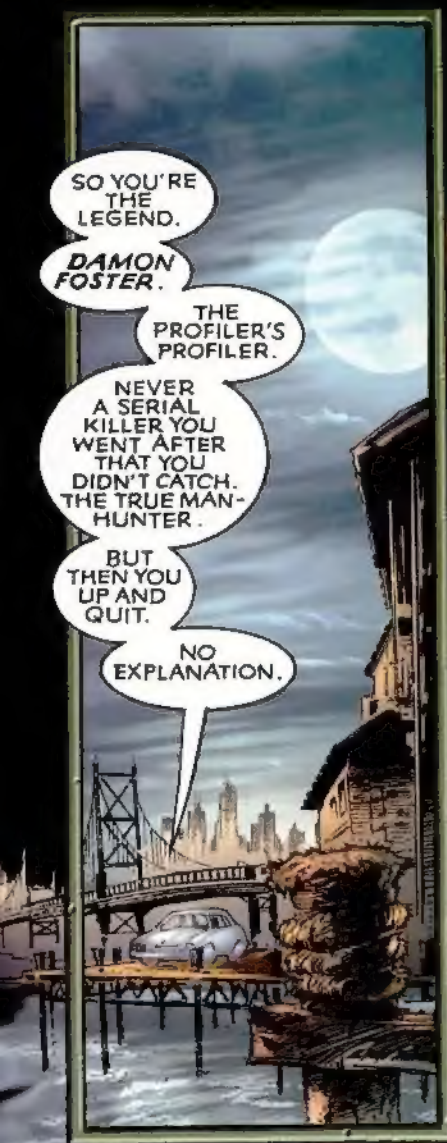


GET OUT,
SIMMONS.



YOU
AND ME
NEED TO
TALK.







WHAT IS THIS PLACE?

LOOK AT THE WALLS, SIMMONS. SEE THE NAMES? ALL VICTIMS OF SERIAL KILLERS. INNOCENCE STOLEN FROM THE WEAK. LIKE THESE DEAD PIGEONS.



AND HERE... THE RAG DOLLS.

DESTROYED AND RE-ASSEMBLED. MADE HARMLESS.

FASCINATING. ISN'T IT?



WHAT'RE WE DEALING WITH, FOSTER?

THE MYTH, THE LEGEND. THE KILLER OF KILLERS...



...THAT WHICH WAS ONCE A WOMAN NAMED GRETCHEN CULVER, UNTIL THE SERIAL KILLER JOHN MAWBLEY DROVE HER INTO THE JAWS OF THE ABYSS. A HORROR AS DARK AS EVIL ITSELF: MAN'S INHUMANITY TO MAN.



THE ONES WHO SHOULD'VE PROTECTED HER TOOK AWAY EVERYTHING SHE WAS...



BUT WHAT
AROSE FROM
THE ASHES OF
GRETCHEN'S
TORTURED ENDING
WAS MORE THAN
THE SUM OF
HER PARTS

HACKED TO
PIECES AND
REASSEMBLED LIKE
THESE RAG DOLLS,
SHE BECAME
VENGEANCE
ITSELF...

THE
MAGNIFICENT
CREATURE...

THE FERAL,
BEAUTIFUL
JAGGED EDGE
OF DEATH
THAT IS...

...SUTURE...

FOSTER,
LISTEN TO
YOURSELF. YOU
WANT SUTURE
WHY? TO
BRING HER TO
JUSTICE?

OR IS IT
SOMETHING
DEEPER? YOU
HUNT SERIAL
KILLERS, BUT
THIS WOMAN YOU
OBVIOUSLY ADMIRE
HUNTS SERIAL
KILLERS AND
IS A SERIAL
KILLER HER-
SELF.

FOSTER...
IN SOME SICK
WAY, ARE YOU
IN LOVE
WITH THIS
WOMAN?

DON'T TRY
PROFILING
ME, SIMMONS!
YOU'RE HERE TO
HELP ME TRAP
SUTURE.

I KNOW
HER...
STUDIED HER
EVERY MOVE,
HER EVERY KILL.
SHE'LL BE
COMING FOR THE
CROCODILE
KILLER NEXT
TRAVIS
QUINN IS
GONNA
BE OUR
BAIT!

FORGET
IT, FOSTER.
YOU'RE
TALKING NON-
SENSE



YOU'LL
HELP ME,
SIMMONS!

YOU'LL
HELP ME
GET SUTURE
BECAUSE I'VE
FIGURED OUT
WHO KILLED
YOUR WIFE
AND SON!

WHAT?!

MY GOD!
TELL
ME!

EASY, MARC.
QUID PRO QUO.
THAT'S HOW THIS IS
GOING TO WORK. YOU
HELP ME GET WHAT I
WANT. THEN I GIVE
YOL WHAT YOU
WANT SIMPLE
ARRANGEMENT

DO WE
HAVE AN
UNDERSTANDING,
SPECIAL AGENT
SIMMONS?

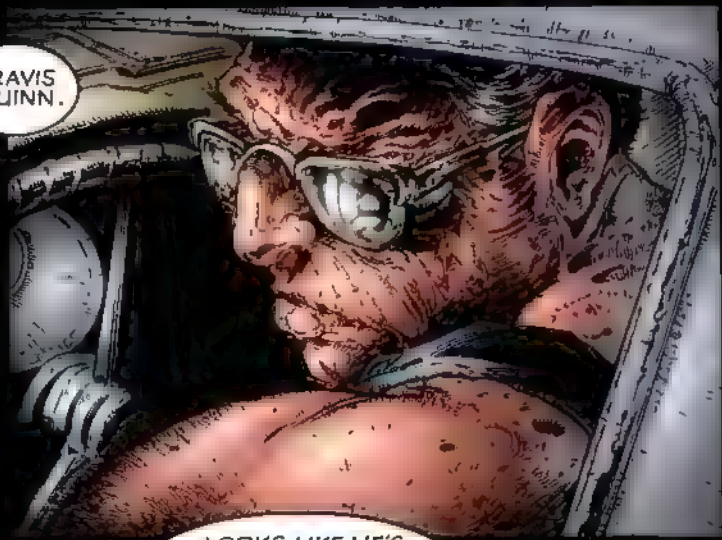
ALRIGHT.
BUT YOL
BETTER BE
TELLING THE
TRUTH,
FOSTER.

FOR
YOUR
SAKE.



THERE'S
OUR BOY
THE
CROCODILE
KILLER
HIMSELF.

TRAVIS
QUINN.



LOOKS LIKE HE'S
GOT HIS DATE FOR THE
EVENING. PROBABLY
STASHED IN THE TRUNK
OF THAT CAR.

LET'S
DO
THIS.



IF
WE'RE
LUCKY
WE CAN
SAVE THE
VICS.

WE'RE
HERE FOR
SUTURE
REMEMBER
THAT.

WHY
DO YOU
THINK
SHE'LL
COME
NOW?

SUTURE
NEVER LETS
A KILLER'S
BODY COUNT
GO OVER A
CERTAIN
NUMBER.
QUINN JUST
HIT HIS
LIMIT.





I'M
FASCINATED
BY SUTURE'S
ABILITY TO READ
A KILLER'S
MIND

IT'S AS IF
SHE KNOWS
WHEN HE OR SHE
IS ABOUT TO
COMMIT THE
DEFINITIVE ACT, THE
THING THAT MOST
DEFINES THEIR
EXISTENCE AS
A SERIAL
KILLER



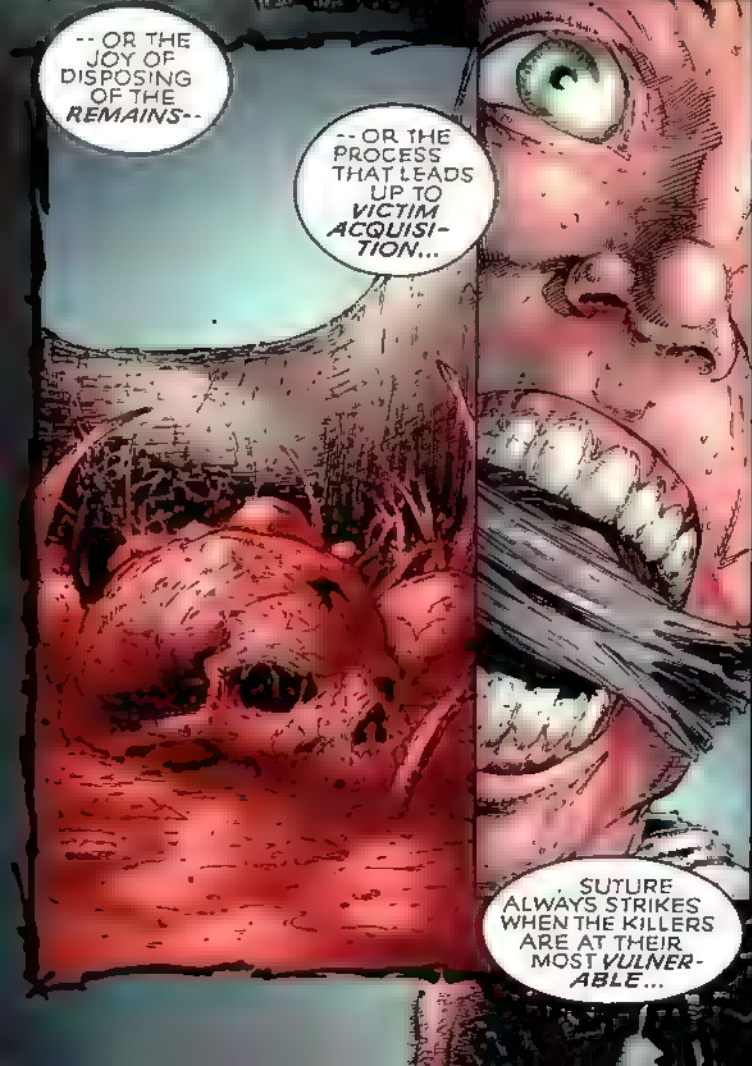
WHETHER
IT'S THE ACT
OF ACTUALLY
KILLING--

-- OR THE
JOY OF
DISPOSING
OF THE
REMAINS--

-- OR THE
PROCESS
THAT LEADS
UP TO
VICTIM
ACQUISITION...

...WHEN
THEIR
SERATONIN AND
ENDORPHINE LEVELS
ARE PEAKING WITH
ECSTASY, THAT IS
THEIR WEAKEST
MOMENT.

THAT IS
THE MOMENT
WHEN TAKING
THEM DOWN
PROVIDES THESE
SOULLESS
MONSTERS
THE MOST
ANGUISH.



SUTURE
ALWAYS STRIKES
WHEN THE KILLERS
ARE AT THEIR
MOST VULNER-
ABLE...



WE
NEED A
BLIND.

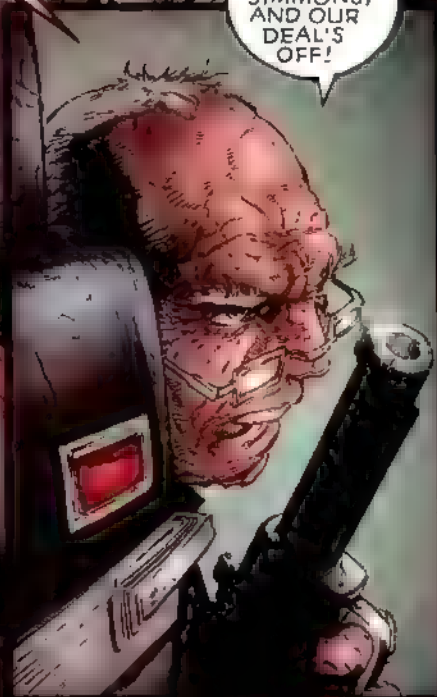
SOME-
WHERE
CLOSE.



I'M
GOING
FOR THE
VIC.

No!

YOU
SCREW
THIS UP,
SIMMONS,
AND OUR
DEAL'S
OFF!







BIG SOB.

BLOOD PUMPING, ADRENALINE MAXED OUT.

TRY AND TALK HIM DOWN. STAY FOCUSED.

WHAT'S HIS M.O.? WHAT'S HIS OBJECTIVE?

AUTOBODY SHOP.

REPAIRS--

QUINN, WAIT. I'VE GOT A JOB FOR YOU. HUMAN SALVAGE. SOMEONE WHO NEEDS LOTS OF WORK. RIGHT UP YOUR ALLEY. INTERESTED?

I PICK MY JOBS. BADGE MAN NOT YOU.

YANK!

AS FOR YOU-- TOTAL LOSS.



CRASH!

AAH!

MOVE!

MY LEGS...!

FIRE ALARM

MAYBE I'M
BEING TOO HASTY
NO SENSE LETTING YOU
GO TO WASTE AFTER ALL,
I COULD CUT YOU BOTH
UP FOR PARTS. THERE IS
A BOOMING MARKET
SOUTH OF THE
BORDER

KIDNEYS,
LIVERS,
HEARTS,
AND EYES.
YES, THEY
PAY TOP
DOLLAR
FOR A
GOOD
SET.

AND IN
OTHER PARTS
OF THE WORLD
CERTAIN ORGANS
ARE CONSIDERED
MORE OF A
DELICACY THAN
SHARK FIN SOUP.
YOU SEE... I
READ.

TRUCK
ENGINE'S
GOT MY DAMN
LEGS PINNED. NO
TALKING QUINN
DOWN, HE'S A
GODDAMN
WRECKING
MACHINE.

NOT SURE
EVEN A CLIFFFUL
OF BLACK TALONS
COULD STOP HIM.
GOT TO TRY.

COME ON...
PLEASE, GOD...
JUST ANOTHER
INCH.



NO, I'M
NOT THE
VICTIM HERE.
I-- I'M THE
HUNTER. THIS
ISN'T HOW IT'S
SUPPOSED TO
HAPPEN.

IT NEVER
IS. WE ALL THINK
WE'RE HUNTERS...
UNTIL A BIGGER
ANIMAL COMES
ALONG AND
PROVES US
WRONG.

FOSTER CATCHES
ONLY A GLIMPSE.
A FLASH BEFORE
DEATH.

AN
APPARITION
MADE OF
SEWN
FLESH AND
POLISHED
STEEL.

TRAVIS QUINN
SEES NOTHING
AT ALL.

UNTIL IT'S
TOO LATE.



AND
THE DEVIL
WILL
DRAG YOU
UNDER.

NO!
NO!

I'M NOT
DONE! I'VE
STILL GOT SO
MUCH WORK
TO DO!
SO MANY
REPAIRS
TO MAKE!



WHO
WILL FIX
THEM
ALL?

IT HAS
TO BE
ME!

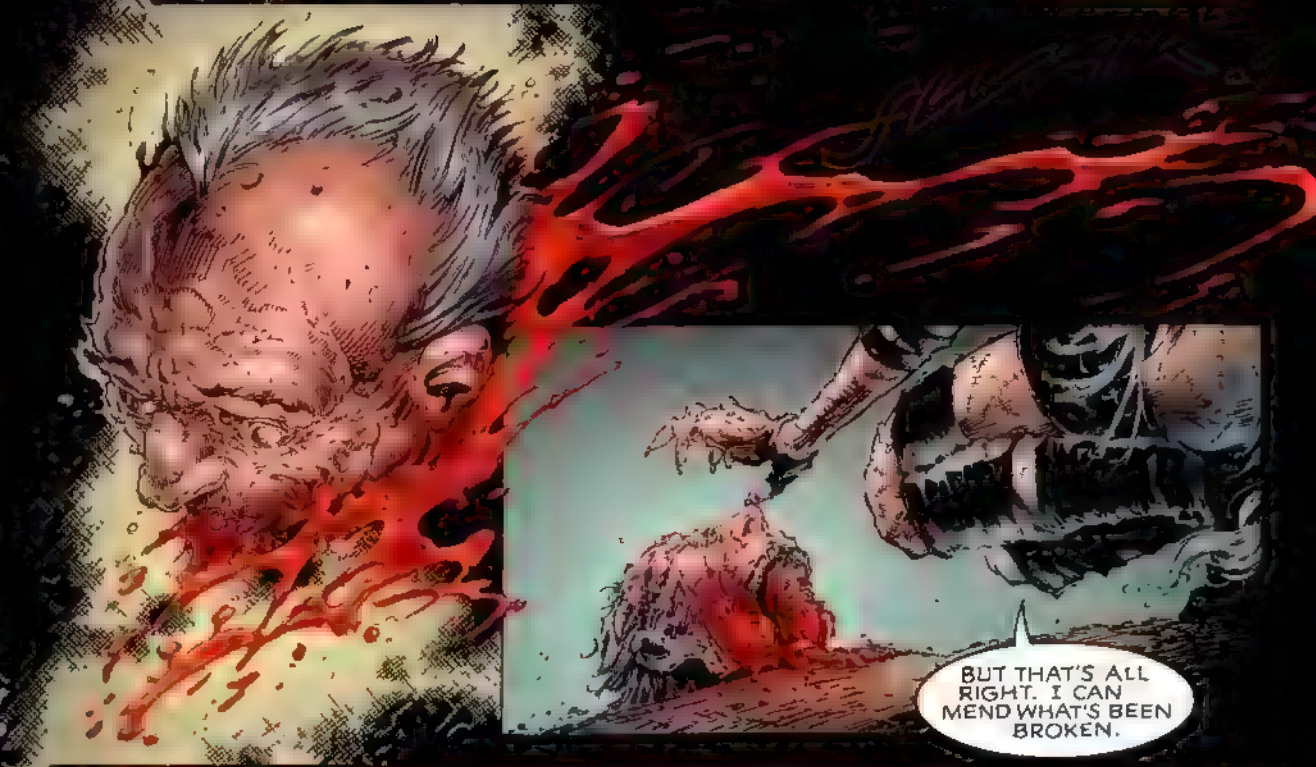
I'M THE
ONLY ONE WHO
CAN DO IT!

LET ME
OUT!
**LET ME
OUT!**



DO YOU
KNOW WHAT
I SEE WHEN
I LOOK
AT YOU,
TRAVIS?

ROADKILL.



BUT THAT'S ALL
RIGHT. I CAN
MEND WHAT'S BEEN
BROKEN.



SUTURE...?

LOOK
AT ME...

SEE
ME...



PLEASE.

..I- I
LOVE
You..



FORGET
HER,
FOSTER.

SHE'S A
MONSTER.
ALL SHE
HAS EYES
FOR IS
DEATH!

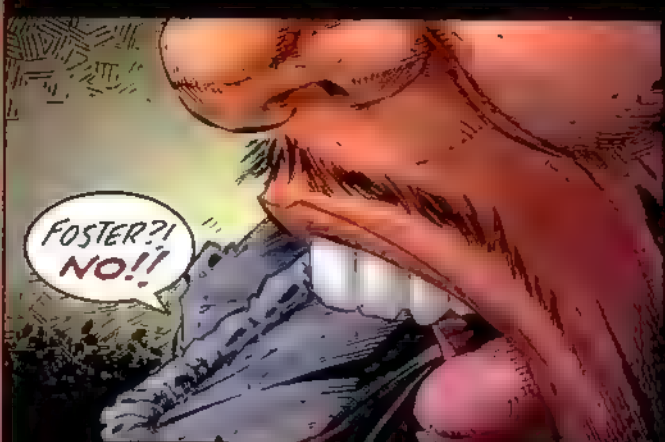
NOW - TELL
ME WHO
KILLED MY
WIFE AND
SON!! WHO
BLUTHERED
MY FAMILY?!

**TELL
ME!!**



.. NOTHING
LEFT

.. NOTHING



FOSTER?!
NO!!

FOSTER!!!



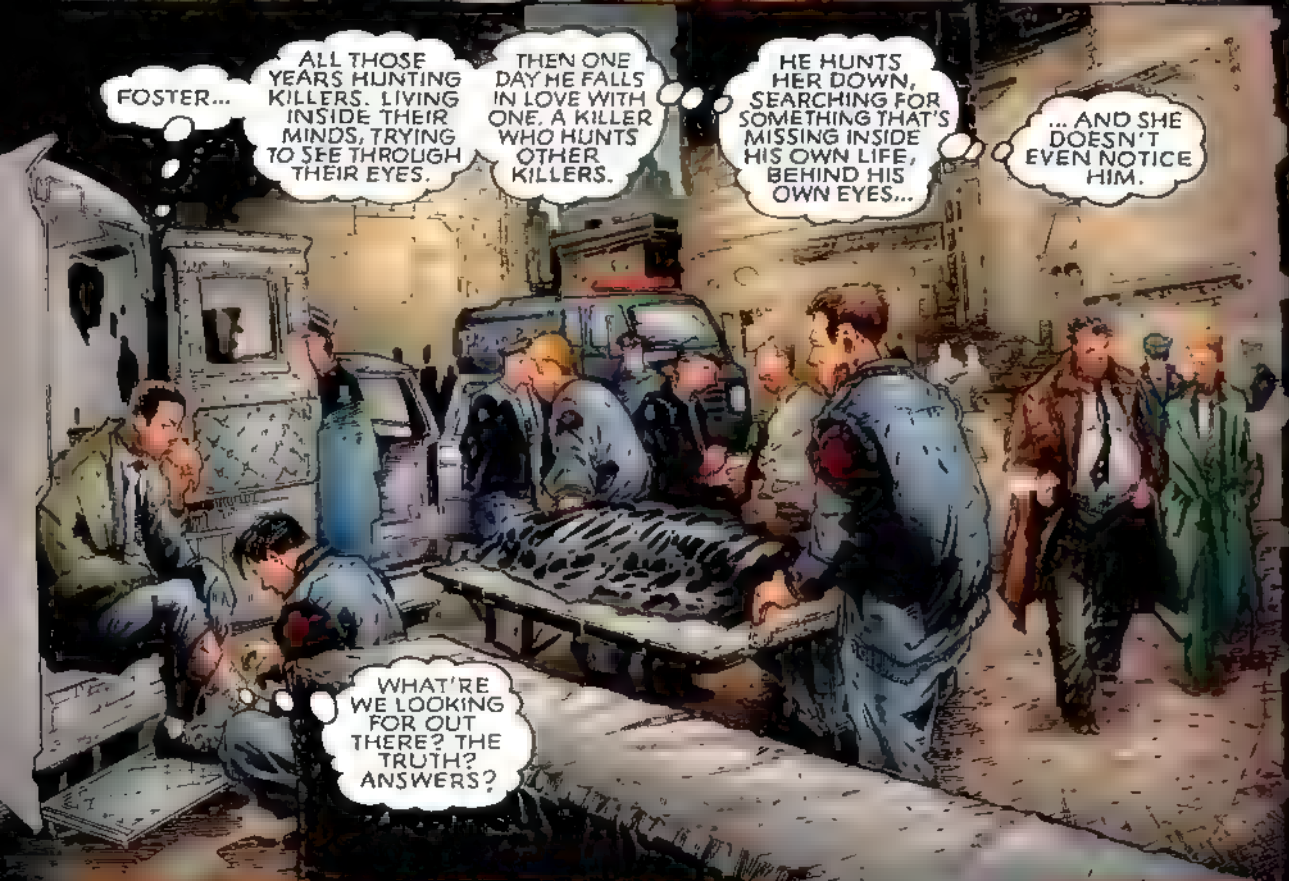
NO ...
GOD...

IT'S
NOT
FAIR...



SO
CLOSE
TO AN
ANSWER.

YVONNE...
TREY. I FEEL
LIKE I LET YOU
DOWN AGAIN. I
SHOULD'VE
MADE FOSTER
TELL ME
SOONER.



FOSTER...

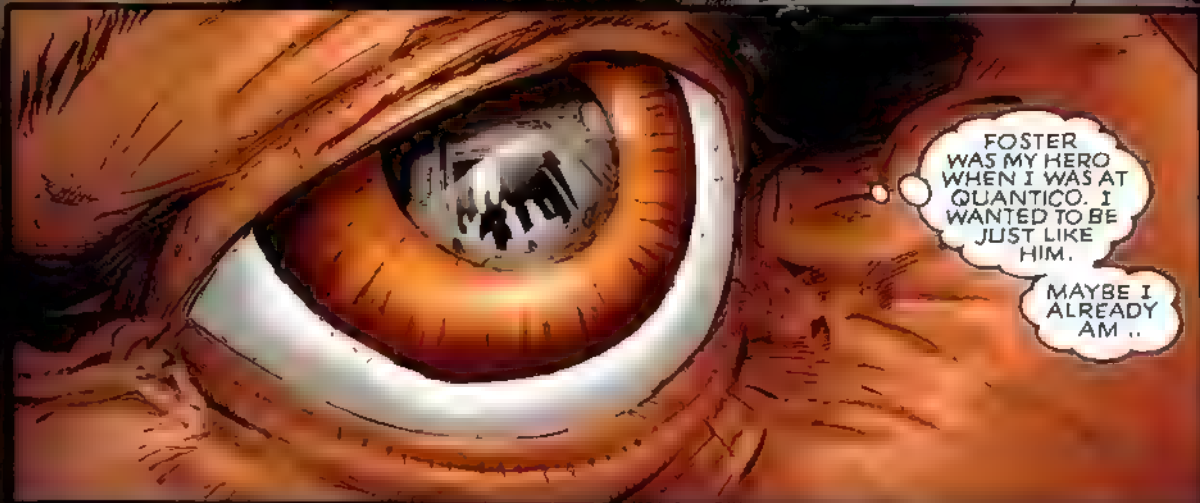
ALL THOSE
YEARS HUNTING
KILLERS. LIVING
INSIDE THEIR
MINDS, TRYING
TO SEE THROUGH
THEIR EYES.

THEN ONE
DAY HE FALLS
IN LOVE WITH
ONE. A KILLER
WHO HUNTS
OTHER
KILLERS.

HE HUNTS
HER DOWN,
SEARCHING FOR
SOMETHING THAT'S
MISSING INSIDE
HIS OWN LIFE,
BEHIND HIS
OWN EYES...

... AND SHE
DOESN'T
EVEN NOTICE
HIM.

WHAT'RE
WE LOOKING
FOR OUT
THERE? THE
TRUTH?
ANSWERS?



FOSTER
WAS MY HERO
WHEN I WAS AT
QUANTICO. I
WANTED TO BE
JUST LIKE
HIM.

MAYBE I
ALREADY
AM ..



AS FOR THE
CROCODILE
MURDERS... CASE
CLOSED. I'LL GIVE
QUINN THE CREDIT. HE
WAS A GOOD AGENT.
HE SAVED DOZENS
OF LIVES OVER
THE YEARS

AS FOR
SUTURE...

... SHE
REMAINS
ON THE FBI'S
CLASSIFIED
TOP TEN
LIST

THE END

blah blah blah

BlahBlahBlah_74

w/terry fitzgerald

tdfitz@aol.com

Hey. So this is going to be my annual year end wrap up blah. If you are reading this in Curse it should still be December so Merry Christmas, or if this is in Spawn Happy New Year as well, as it should now be January. This year has been a very exciting and busy year for all at the McFarlane Empire. We have had continued success with the Spawn, Curse of Spawn and KISS comic books, as well as introducing a new magazine format KISS comic/mag. Worldwide sales of Spawn comics in a multitude of different languages and formats has surpassed 125 million copies. The toy company has had a banner year, producing lines based on the Spawn family of characters, as well as KISS, X

Follow the Leader as well as currently on the video for their second single, *Freak on a Leash*. Expect to see this video everywhere in early February, 1999. Thanks to Jonathan, Head, Munky, Fieldy and David, as well as managers Jeff and Peter. Thanks to Joseph Bongiovi over at Sony Signatures for help in securing and maintaining the KISS and Ozzy licenses. Along the way, Joseph and I were nominated for Licensed Hard Goods item of the year, (KISS/LIMA), and were also inducted into the first 40 under 40 Licensing Executives club. It honors the top forty execs in the biz under the age of forty. A hardy and warm felt thank you to Al Masocco over at Epic Records. Not only has Al been an indispensable source of help and information concerning the record biz, he has also become a good friend. Thanks to our continual hair brained scheming we have been able to bring you the two KORN projects mentioned above with hopefully a ton more to follow. Thanks to all at Epic as well. Thanks to Rick and Yumiko in Tokyo for

all your help this year. You have made my many trips to Japan not only entertaining, but very profitable and successful. The shabu shabu is on me next time! Props to Ted Adams for joining us this year and for sharing his office space with us early on. Thanks for being a sound board and for everything you added to TMP/TMPV/TME. And for the many entertaining moments and stories you have provided me. You're the second funniest man on the planet, next to Tom Orzechowski. A special thank you to Todd, Wanda, Sheila and all at TMP/TMPTempe/TMPI for making working here a pleasure, not a chore. You guys make it all seem so easy. Lastly, a special thank you to the one woman who was able to tame me and keep me in one place long enough to attach a wedding band, the lovely Deborah Marvin. Thanks, you are the best.

Until next month... Happy Holidays.

terry fitzgerald

"Worldwide sales of Spawn comics in a multitude of different languages and formats has surpassed 125 million copies."

Files: Fight the Future, Movie Maniacs, and Monsters. The guys in New Jersey are busy working on our 1999 figures: Austin Powers: The Spy Who Shagged Me, Ozzy, Movie Maniacs 2, and Metal Gear Solid, with others to be announced at a later date. Keep your eyes on the End Cap column for further details.

The entertainment company here in LA was lucky enough to have worked, and continue to work, with two of the most influential bands of the 90s. Many thanks to the guys in Pearl Jam and their management for selecting us to produce their first video in the last six years since *Oceans*. A personal thank you to Eddie, Jeff, Stone, Mike, Matt and to manager Kelly Curtis for allowing me to become a honorary roadie on their US tour while working on the *Do the Evolution* animated video. We are also excited to have been able to work with KORN on the production of their album artwork for

L: Ted Adams, myself and Rick Privman at Parc Espere in Japan. R: Al & Debbie Masocco.



L: Ted and I chowing down on yakanku in Tokyo. R: Deborah and her jackass husband.





Curse Words

Curse Words

P.O. Box 27228 Tempe AZ 85285-7228

www.spawn.com

Dear Todd,

Been following *Spawn* since #1 in '92. *Spawn* and *Curse of the Spawn* is a classic form of art. I just want to ensure the high quality of your series with a few thoughts of mine. I sincerely hope you publish this in the Curse Words column; this is the type of letter that really makes a point about comics. Everybody should have a chance to read this.

I want to remind fans that the *Curse of Spawn* is more than just a comic book. Image has made a powerful impact on the way comics are. Combining smooth characters, fascinating realities, vibrant realms, powerful images, and awesome story telling is something worth paying attention to! Pure unfiltered art, page after page, is ultimately, one way or another, magic! Congratulations to a fine man who has helped impact the twentieth century with such magic! Some people may say that some of the art on your series is gory, some may say it is sick, some may say it is unreal, some may say it is hard to make sense of, but this is not true. One way or another, the artists make an impact. They make an impact that is supported with refined and vibrant color. The artists shape reality into possible forms that could exist anytime and anywhere. They shape and bend life as we think of it. When reading the high-quality stuff that these artists give out, I find myself attracted to the characters. Abe, Angela, Vincent, Antonio, Jessica and many other characters are simply flat-out fun to pay attention to. When one absorbs the character data in each book, he naturally learns things. He learns of possibilities. He learns about how people are or could be. Ultimately, in many ways, comics are truly educational.

In today's media-enhanced society, everybody naturally falls into the understanding of what the public says. If society found and refined rules at one point along the timeline, the government, our natural predecessors, absorbed the information and spread it into the center of society. Marijuana is a perfect example of that. Once the government said pot was bad, everyone believed, and those beliefs have filtered into the future to which our society, counted as a whole, believed. Everybody naturally believes that TV rots your brain. It does just the opposite. We learn about people, lifestyles, cultures and many other things from TV. The society as a whole, with the help of the media, says that TV is no good. So, naturally everybody believes it. Everybody needs to think for himself without the media to destroy our expectations.

The same is true with comics. Everyone originally named any kind of art that has a column or a word balloon a comic. If I could, I would call comics H.S.E.: High Sensory Expressionism. Comics aren't just comics. Comics, like anything else in society, have been enhanced. It's just too bad our society as a whole doesn't believe

that. Comics from Top Cow aren't anything different than just a silly little book with a couple of heroes, a little intrigue and another boring plot. Although it may seem a bit morbid, paying attention to a powerful assassin blowing somebody's brains out with some futuristic pulse-type cannon is, in its own right, art. Art is anything that is wild, unique, stylish and fun. Inflexible people refuse to believe that it is anything worth paying attention to, even for young ones. Although *Spawn* isn't for them, when they become engrossed in a warm glow of an alternate reality with a wild, rifle-wielding Jessica Prest, they absorb all of that information. They feel how wide open life is and they learn how stylish and vibrant the world can be. They learn how people are and how they could be. Your comic line simply encourages people to see how much the world really has to offer.

Art is the most profound thing in the world. It is a derived form of the unlimited possibilities of life. Art is expression and expression is who we are and what we do. You should be very proud of yourself Todd. You are a powerhouse who began something that contains beauty, art and creation. I have a passion for almost any piece of work that you do. To be honest, all of those old DC and Marvel comics are not much without art worth caring for. The story and the characters just aren't good enough without beautiful art to back it up. When you have a small magazine that has nonstop pages of Picasso-like art, you definitely have enough bangs for your buck. Image is a bang in its own right. The dark and surreal world of the *Curse of Spawn* is beautiful, strange and a wonderful experience. The battle between Hell and Heaven never was so stylish and wild since you came along! Glory to you Todd, it has been an honor to be part of your generation.

Corey Uehling
Kansas City, Missouri

In your very insightful letter, Corey, I appreciate your thoughts and I hope this kind of letter writing might inspire others out there to a letter column. I hope it may inspire others who may have always held themselves in reserve because they didn't have anything specific to say about that particular issue.

Your notes here are more general and actually give more insight into the type of person you are, and it is always entertaining to get different view points from the many different people who join us in the *Spawn* world every month. Let me see if I can't give you a few simple comments on some of your points you've made.

I agree with you that art is a form of expression and that each of us involved in comic books is trying to send a message to the people on the outside. *Spawn* tries to fall in both of those categories in terms of some of the stories and content. I believe it has a wider view of the world than just what is happening in my little comic book sector. At the same time, it allows me and my fellow artists to enjoy ourselves in an occupation of our choice.

The definition of comic books is to some extent no different than a lot of other things. They can be whatever we want them to be

as long as we choose to do so and we as a society as a whole accept it. Most people are not willing to continue a labor of love for their entire existence if nobody is paying attention to what they are doing, because then we're talking about isolation and that's not something most of us wish to be a part of.

I'd also like to say that the evolution of art has always been ongoing and will continue to be ongoing and though you said it's nice to be part of this generation, I see lots of hope in the new young kids coming up. The look to the future is quite promising, too.

Dear Todd,

The reason I don't read *Curse of the Spawn* is because of what the story line may consist of.

If the plot concerns monsters, aliens and humans clashing with each other, I probably wouldn't buy the book. *Spawn* already has all of that. However, if the story revolves around such characters as Suture and Jessica Priest then more than likely I would buy the magazine. I really enjoy those two characters. Another two I'd like to see more of are Sam Burke and Twitch Williams. I'd like to see these two deal more and more with the dark side of human nature, and not so much with monsters and what have you.

Well thank you for listening to me

Sincerely yours,

Melvin Lawhorn

Tuscaloosa, Alabama

It's interesting that you make the comment in your letter about picking and choosing the stories. I believe this is one of the problems with the format of rotating characters and story lines. You have a tendency to sway closer to what I would call urban and realistic stories, much like myself while we still get a handful of readers who like the stories with the fantasy elements at the forefront.

Given that I still haven't quite figured out what a happy balance is here, I instead have chosen to take the *Curse of the Spawn* book in the future and actually split it into two books and give you the best of both worlds. I'm trying to have my cake and eat it too. We'll be having a *Spawn: The Dark Ages* that deals with a kind of *Braveheart* mentality within the confines of the *Spawn* mythos. At the same time, we'll be breaking Sam and Twitch into their own detective story from the writer of crime novels, Brian Michael Bendis whose books *Goldfish* and *Jinx* are literally some of the best issues I've read in the past decade. We're trying to make sure we're not short on either one of the two genres, but instead of doing a half-assed effort on both of them, we'll focus on two new monthlies, one of which will focus on the urban touch and one on the fantasy. So look for news on both of those in the future. Thanks.

To Todd McFarlane,

I am writing concerning *Curse of the Spawn*. I've been reading it for quite a while, and I find the comic to be a worthwhile read. My guess is why other people aren't interested in it is because it usually doesn't involve *Spawn*!

When I first bought it, I was curious about it, but slightly disappointed when *Spawn* wasn't in it. It just seemed like an obvious marketing strategy to cash in on the popularity of *Spawn*. My only complaint is that it has added a minor bit of confusion when I ended up trying to tie it into the regular *Spawn* series.

Well, I'm sure you're busy, so I'll end it here. Please try to consider the opinions of your devoted fans! Speaking as one of them, my only hope is that *Spawn* will remain my all-time favorite. Remember

this, please: My motto has been and always will be "Quality before Quantity"!

Your devoted fan,

Randy J. Michaud

Again here's the question of what should be contained within the pages of the *Curse* book. As I said above, we'll be expanding our line-up in the year 1999 with new books like *The Crow* due out in February followed by *Spawn: The Dark Ages* in March which will be closer to the things you mentioned you would like. Although it's not the Al Simmons *Spawn*, it still ties into a lot of the legendary myths that surround this kind of story in *Curse*. We'll also be bringing out the *Sam & Twitch* book, which will be the urban horror, Ozzy Osbourne and a new kind of monster thriller book which will be based on Cygor as he has yet to be presented in the comic book. It will be a revamping of him in more of a Frankenstein feel. Plus, we have a few other odds and ends we'll be throwing your way as time goes by. A little bit later we'll be having a book called *Black Terror*, which is again my first book to be based upon one of the Eclipse properties I acquired when I bought that company in bankruptcy. I hope you look forward to those new endeavors and that there is something there that will tickle your fancy. Thanks.

Dear Mr. McFarlane

I have been with *Spawn* since issue 1 and haven't missed an issue yet. I have been with *Curse of the Spawn* since issue 1 and haven't missed an issue yet. However, that is where the similarities end. While *Spawn* is worth the \$1.95 a month, *Curse* is not.

This series is terrible. I must say that I have yet to fully enjoy a single issue. I honestly don't know why I buy it. I mean no disrespect to Mr. McElroy, but the stories are awful. Even the stories I was looking forward to were disappointments. Angela's origin was confusing and totally uninteresting. The Sam and Twitch story was so bad, I wish it hadn't even seen print.

When I first heard of the series, I was ecstatic. A series dedicated to focusing on Hellspawns of the past and future. Where are the stories that we, the fans, want to see? A Medieval *Spawn* origin tale would interest me. A solo Volator tale. Angela versus the Violator. Maelbolgia's rise to power. This series is not like I expected, nor what I want to read. I'm afraid I will have to discontinue reading it. I'm sorry, but that's just how I feel.

Thanks for your time,

Livio Ramondelli

Hopefully if you've read the comments of the last two letters you'll see that some of the things that aggravated you on the series in the past will hopefully be remedied in the future. I believe if you become a little more selective and choose some of the books I'm expanding into, you should be able to find something that fits your needs without having to buy all of the books.

If you are looking for more of a fantasy edge, then *Spawn: The Dark Ages* is definitely a book for you, whereas the new *Sam & Twitch* or *Black Terror* books, which are more suspense thriller books, will probably be something you'll want to steer clear of. I believe that all of them combined are sort of a consistent atmosphere in the direction I want to go with my publishing endeavors. I hope to have a wide enough view of characters and story lines so that each person can pick and choose what he likes to suit his own personal needs. Good luck and I hope you hang in there a little bit longer.

ENDCAP 79

NUMBER 13 IS CURSED!

That's right, the Series 13 figures from McFarlane Toys are all devoted to characters from the Curse of the Spawn comic book. Each looking like they leapt from the pages, these new toys go on to set an even HIGHER standard of detail. They're cool. They're deadly. And they're coming out soon.

The first character is our title man himself: **Curse of the Spawn 2**. From the premier issue of the comic, **Daniel Liano** is even more detailed than our previous offering in Series 8. After all, we've had two more years of improvements to add to this guy! He's incredibly detailed, very posable, and quite menacing.

The next figure is **Jessica Priest**, from her story arc in issues 12-14. The girl of ferocity is a deadly assassin, capable of taking on an entire enemy base with a single sidearm. Decorated in her war paint (from issue 14), she comes with ANOTHER figure: **Mr. Obersmith** - the once-human soldier who was transformed by cruel genetic experiments.

The Dark Myth story arc gives us the next three figures. **Zeus** is the King of the Gods. He towers over Olympus with his horned helmet and armor, scepter and sword. This figure even features the first articulated beard! Also from issue 20 of Curse of the Spawn is **Raenis**. Tormented by the gods, he literally created the lower regions of Hell, and began the dynasty that ended with Malebolgia. Hanging from his wings is a golden fairy. Accompanying Raenis through the annals of history is our fifth figure, **Medusa**. This gorgeous Gorgon has a tail, bewdy snake/staff, two demon minions, and bandages snakes in her hair. But be sure to avoid her stony stare!

We also have a figure from issue #22, called **Hatchet**. **Ryan Hatchett** was an average high school student until the day he died. Then he came back - in an alternate universe filled with zombies. Now he carries the curse of the undead back to them, fighting against Zombie Spawn with his own bladed weapon. He even carries trophies - death-masks of all the other zombies he's sent to the grave for the final time.

And every storyline needs a good villain. The **Dessicator** was the first demon that came up against Curse of the Spawn, and is our boxed deluxe figure for this line. This huge lumbering monster has removable armor and his own PVA-44 Psi Pulse Cannon to drain all humans of their life force. As with the other figures, this toy will be in stores in March. So remember, 13 CAN be a lucky number. At least, if it's SERIES 13 and already "Cursed."

ON TO THE LETTERS: EMTEE wrote into the Spawn website (<http://www.spawn.com>) asking about case packing on Series 12. Well, as you've found by now we tend to keep shifting the figures around a bit in the cartons. So while one case may have three **Spawn IVs** and one **Creech**, the next case may have three **Heaps** and one **Re-Animated Spawn**. While not totally random, it's a way for us to keep "scalpers" on their toes. Since you never know which toy is the "short-cut," they won't grab up all of one figure, leaving the true fans.

Odin on the Spawn message board asked about the display cases that the store specials had this year. Will the club be selling light-up ones also? Yes, in fact we've redesigned the light a little to be even brighter for the club. In the February flyer we're going to sell the empty **STACKABLE** display cases (not included). We'll also have a coupon for the gridwork on the floor, so your figures can stand in any position you want. Look for the details in the next quarter, or coming out through the McFarlane Toy Collector's Club.

And the winner of the Green Cosmic Angela? **Ryan** from Astoria Hills AL. He sent us a story about using Spawn action figures, and a Curse and Vandalizer. If YOU want to win a Diamond Exclusive limited edition Cosmic Angela, just drop us a line or a question or comment to: **McFarlane Toys, Inc., P.O. Box 27228, Tempe, AZ 85285-7228**, McToyClub@aol.com.

TALENT SEARCH



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Send your submissions to: Ranks of the Elite, Todd McFarlane Productions, P.O. Box 786, Canandaigua, NY 14622-0786



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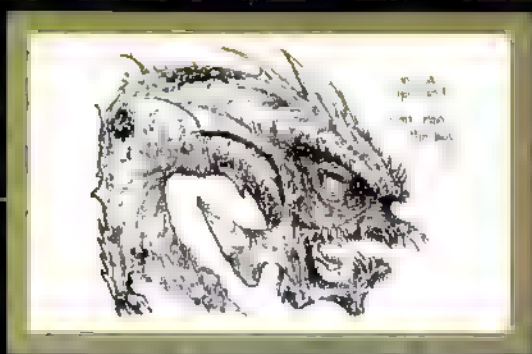
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This figure is only available to members of the McFarlane Toys Collector's Club. All members of the club receive a free quarterly newsletter and an opportunity to purchase exclusive figures (like Todd the Artist) that are available nowhere else. To get more information about how you can join the club, call toll-free 1-888-99-SPAWN.

TODD THE ARTIST RULES

NEED TO KNOW: Contest open to anyone except employees of McFarlane Toys Collector's Club, its affiliates, subsidiaries and agents, and their immediate families. Offer void where prohibited, regulated, or restricted by law or a manner inconsistent with the rules herein. For a free game piece, send a self-addressed stamped envelope along with this voided "Todd Contest" section on a separate sheet of paper to: Todd Contest, P.O. Box 701545, Plymouth, MI 48170-0955. Enter as many times as you like, but one entry per separate envelope. All requests must be received by January 3, 1999. Federal / State / Local laws / fees are the sole responsibility of the winners. McFarlane Toys Collector's Club is not responsible for lost, late, misdirected or undelivered entries. Game materials are sent if obtained, where prohibited by law and/or if any part is illegal, mutilated, altered, forged, duplicated, or tampered with in any way. A list of winners will be included in an upcoming McFarlane Toys Collector's Club newsletter. Any prizes not claimed by June 30, 1999 will be donated to the Comic Book Legal Defense Fund.

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